

[Press Release] - For Immediate Release

## **Sun Museum Celebrated First Anniversary Presenting “Eternally Revolving Twin Rocks: Qi Baishi and Shi Lu” Exhibition**

(Hong Kong, 5 May 2016) Sun Museum, a private museum established by the Simon Suen Foundation, celebrated its first anniversary as well as opening of its new exhibition, “Eternally Revolving Twin Rocks: Qi Baishi and Shi Lu” today. A number of distinguished guests were invited to officiate at the ceremony, including Ms **Florence Hui Hiu-fai**, Under Secretary for Home Affairs; Dr **Wilfred Wong Ying-wai**, Chairman of Hong Kong Arts Development Council; Dr **Louis Ng Chi-wa**, Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services; Mr **Linus Cheung Wing-lam**, Chairman of the Council of Centennial College; and Dr **Simon Suen Siu-man**, Founding Chairman of the Simon Suen Foundation.

### **Attracted over 6,000 visitors since establishment**

“Eternally Revolving Twin Rocks” is the fourth exhibition presented by the Sun Museum. Prior to that, the Museum has organised three exhibitions featuring masterpieces of 20<sup>th</sup> century Chinese paintings, contemporary oil paintings by Hong Kong artists and ancient Longquan Celadon. These exhibitions were “Dawn of a Sunny Century: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Paintings from the Yitao Collection”, “Kaleidoscope of Memories: Contemporary Oil Paintings by Hong Kong Artists”, and “Of Mist and Lushly Green: Longquan Celadon from Song to Ming Dynasties” respectively. In the past year, the Museum has welcomed more than 6,000 visitors and arranged 15 cultural talks which attracted over 1,500 participants.

Chloe Suen, Chair of Simon Suen Foundation said, “As a new private museum located in Kowloon East, Sun Museum has achieved a satisfactory result of welcoming more than 6,000 visitors in 4 exhibitions and attracting over 1,500 participants in 15 cultural talks. We are very proud of what we have achieved. Among many art events, galleries and museums in Hong Kong, I hope that Sun Museum can further its unique role as a private museum by contributing to the promotion and education of traditional Hong Kong and Chinese arts and culture, and facilitating their development as well. On behalf of the Museum, I have to express our gratitude for all the support we have received from the general public, collectors, media friends and fellows in the past year.”

### **“Twin Rocks” and their revolutionary influence on Chinese painting**

“Eternally Revolving Twin Rocks” is on view from 6 May to 9 July 2016. It is the first thematic exhibition in Hong Kong that features Qi Baishi and Shi Lu together in one show. It showcases

over 40 pieces of painting and calligraphy, most of which are making their first museum debut. All exhibits are selected from two private collections in Hong Kong, Debonair Villa and Yitao Collection.

The exhibition juxtaposes the two masters with the view of educating the public about the development of Chinese painting in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Active in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, both Qi and Shi developed their unique artistic styles. Qi's artworks inherit the tradition of Chinese painting yet surpass predecessors in their theme and composition. For Shi Lu, his paintings entail innovative compositions and were rendered with both Chinese and Western techniques as he studied Chinese painting and was exposed to Western art as well. All exhibits in this show have high artistic and historical values, encouraging a better understanding of the two masters and their similarities, differences and achievements in transmitting and innovating Chinese painting.

Qi and Shi's artistic styles were greatly shaped by their background and experience. Born in a peasant family, Qi did not receive formal education; yet he was talented to learn the traditional arts of poetry, calligraphy, painting and seal-carving from different literati. Despite a tough early life, Qi made his living by selling paintings, and was able to sustain a stable life in his later years. Born 55 years later than Qi, Shi grew up in an affluent family and was admitted to an art school. He had traveled to different places such as Tibet, Qinghai Province, India, and Egypt, and was able to learn the local art and culture. However, he experienced the agony of the Cultural Revolution and was diagnosed with schizophrenia and died from cancer.

Yeung Chun Tong, Director of Sun Museum said, "Qi Baishi and Shi Lu are two prestigious masters of Chinese painting in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They developed their own artistic styles yet share similarities in certain areas. For example, Qi considers painting from life with high importance, therefore, the figures, animals, plants, mountains and rivers in his paintings are always imbued with vitality. Similarly, Shi maintains that transmitting spiritual likeness is important not just in figure painting but also landscape painting. We hope that this exhibition will enable visitors to appreciate Qi and Shi's contributions to and achievements in Chinese painting through these similarities and differences."

**Photos of Exhibits, Descriptions of Exhibits, and Photos of Sun Museum:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/z8gvdyjck10wu5x/AABWt85Ctb-m7xEGqZRCBvmga?dl=0>

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**About Sun Museum**

Sun Museum, a non-profit institution established by Simon Suen Foundation, is housed in the 4th floor of the SML Tower along the Kwun Tong waterfront, with a total area of 12,500 sq ft. It fosters the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong and China through organizing feature exhibitions, seminars and other educational activities. Mr. Yeung Chun Tong is the Director of Sun Museum.

**About Simon Suen Foundation**

Established in 2012, the Simon Suen Foundation is a non-profit making organisation registered with the Hong Kong Government. Based in Hong Kong, the Foundation carries an international vision, striving to promote Chinese arts and culture. The Simon Suen Foundation mainly supports the direction of facilitating, reserving and revitalising the traditional Chinese arts and culture, as well as furthering the diversified development of local arts and culture in Hong Kong. Ms. Chloe Suen is the Chair of the Simon Suen Foundation.

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